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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/659,666	09/10/2003	A. John McDonald	HE0161-A	3727
21495	7590	03/17/2004	EXAMINER	
CORNING CABLE SYSTEMS LLC P O BOX 489 HICKORY, NC 28603			WONG, ERIC K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2874	
DATE MAILED: 03/17/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/659,666	Applicant(s) MCDONALD ET AL.	
	Examiner Eric Wong	Art Unit 2874	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 9/10/03.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 24-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 24, 26 and 27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 25 and 28 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>0903</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 24-28 are objected to because of the following informalities: In the parent application 09/967,259 now United States Patent Number 6,648,520, an election was made to a restriction requirement. Claims 24-28 were drawn to a fiber optic plug receptacle, classified in class 385, subclass 55. Claims 24-28 currently claim both a plug and a receptacle and should be clarified to claim a fiber optic plug receptacle. Appropriate correction is required.
2. Claim 25 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The prior art of record does not explicitly disclose a crimp band which further comprises a support configured to prevent an inner support tube from moving longitudinally relative to an outer cable jacket of the optical fiber, wherein the crimp band support engages an inner support tube disposed within an outer cable jacket of the fiber optic cable and wherein the inner support tube surrounds at least one optical fiber proximate the end of the fiber optic cable.
3. Claim 28 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The prior art of record fails to explicitly disclose a collar disposed upon a shaft such that travel of the collar in the lengthwise direction is limited while permitting rotation of the collar about the longitudinal axis relative to the shaft.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

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4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 24, 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent Number 6,234,683 to Waldron et al.

Waldron et al. discloses in figure 15, a fiber optic plug and receptacle assembly comprising:

- A plug body having a shroud proximate one end thereof, the shroud defining at least one opening (Figure 6);
- A fiber optic connector disposed within the plug body and comprising a connector housing and a plug ferrule at least partially disposed within the plug body and comprising a connector housing and a plug ferrule at least partially disposed within the connector housing (Figure 6); and
- A fiber optic receptacle for mating with the fiber optic plug, the fiber optic receptacle comprising:
 - A receptacle housing defining an internal cavity opening through opposed ends (Figure 15);
 - An adapter sleeve disposed within the internal cavity defined by the receptacle housing, the adapter sleeve defining a lengthwise extending passage for the receiving portion of the plug ferrule of the fiber optic plug (250),

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- Wherein the shroud and the adapter sleeve are sized such that portions of the adapter sleeve are disposed within the at least one opening defined by the shroud once the plug ferrule of the fiber optic plug is inserted into the adapter sleeve.

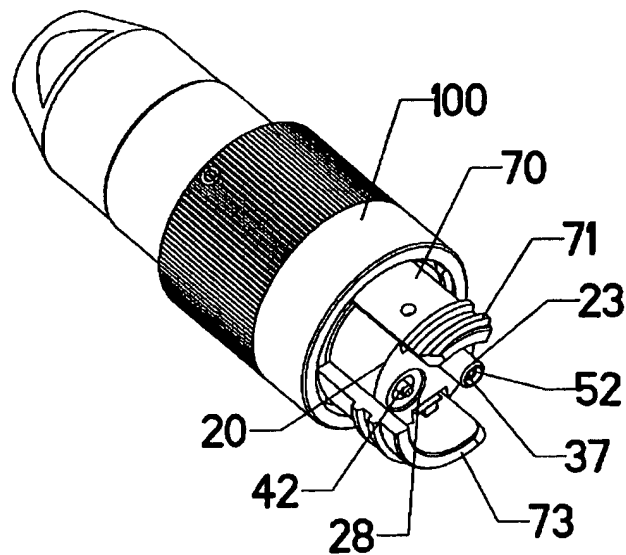


FIG. 6

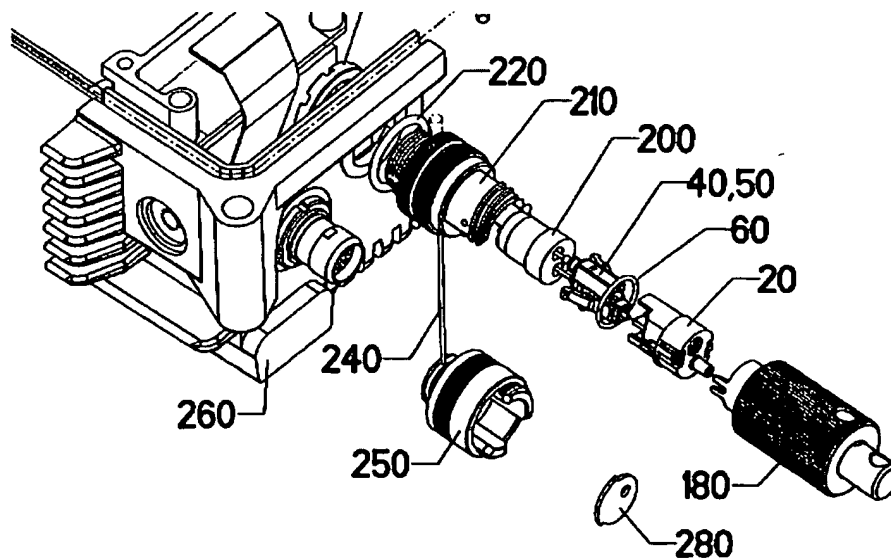


FIG. 15

As to claim 26, a plug body extending lengthwise between a first end and a second end, the first end opposed from the second end, and having a shroud proximate the first end thereof, the shroud defining a pair of openings on opposite sides (Figure 6) thereof, the openings extending lengthwise from at least a medial portion of the shroud to the first end of the plug body.

As to claim 27, the pair of openings defined by the shroud are aligned with one another (Figure 6).

Inventorship

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Conclusion

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 09/10/2003 has been considered by the examiner and made of record (note the attached copy of form PTO-1449).


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Wong whose telephone number is 571-272-2363. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 830AM - 430PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rodney Bovernick can be reached on 571-272-2344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

EW



HEMANG SANGHAVI
PRIMARY EXAMINER